

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/973,624
Amendment After Final dated January 28, 2008
Reply to Final Office Action of October 31, 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, claims 2-28, 55-70, 80-97, and 102-118 are pending. In the final Office Action of October 31, 2007, the Examiner indicated that each of these claims are allowed. Accordingly, since this amendment only makes an editorial amendment to claim 10 and cancels the rejected claims, namely claims 98-100 and 119, this amendment should be entered since it raises no questions of new matter and does not necessitate any further searching and does not raise any new patentability issues.

Rejection of claims 98-100 and 119 under 35 U.S.C. §102 – Reichert et al.

At page 2 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 98-100 and 119 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by Reichert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,779). This rejection is moot for the following reasons.

As stated above, these claims have been canceled by way of this amendment. The applicants believe that these claims are patentable over Reichert et al., but wish to consider pursuing this subject matter in a separate continuation application so as to advance prosecution of the allowed claims. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge

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the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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